

2005 CSP Rewarding the Best...Motivating the Rest

Their Story

Dryland farmer Burton Hass and his son Bruce have deep roots in eastern Colorado's short-grass prairie, born and raised there on the family homestead.

Although it's a hard life farming in the unforgiving and unpredictable conditions of the drought-prone High Plains, the Hass family was recognized for their life-long commitment to land stewardship and were enrolled into the 2005 Conservation Security Program.

Ahead of their time, conservation-wise, the Hass family practiced reduced tillage on their cropland before it was required in NRCS conservation plans. "Strip-cropping and reduced tillage is what we have to do in these conditions," said Burton. "We knew that from the beginning when my parents were farming this land. We've always left more residue than what's required, and use narrower strips."

Burton's son Bruce and his wife Kara operate a grazing program that received the highest CSP stewardship award for management of pasture health and rotation schedules.



"We did it on our own when it needed to be done," said Burton. "You do what needs to be done. You don't wait for somebody to tell you what you need to do."

Bruce Burton

About CSP

- ◆ The majority of your privately owned property or tribal land must be within one of the Colorado identified CSP watersheds to be eligible for 2006 CSP funding.
- ◆ However, each year, for the next eight years, new watersheds will be identified for further opportunities for enrollment into the program.
- ◆ CSP is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands.
- ◆ The program provides payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources.
- ◆ CSP identifies and rewards those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of natural resource conservation on their operations
- ◆ CSP also creates incentives for other producers to meet those same standards of conservation performance. In short, CSP rewards the best and motivates the rest.